

Message Text

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21

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FM AMEMASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9847

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: BICENTENNIAL PROGRAM IN JYVASKYLA

IN CONTINUATION OF PROGRAM TO VISIT FINLAND'S MAJOR CITIES TO CELEBRATE BICENTENNIAL, AMBASSADOR AUSTAD, ACCOMPAINED BY 3 EMBASSY OFFICERS, VISITED JYVASKYLA APRIL 6-8.

AMBASSADOR'S TWO DAY PROGRAM FEATURED MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, CITY OFFICIALS, CHIEF LABOR REPRESENTATIVES FOR JYVASKYLA AND CENTRAL FINLAND, RECTOR AND PROFESSORS OF JYVASKYLA UNIVERSITY, BUSINESS LEADERS AND EXCHANGE STUDENTS.

IN ADDITION POL.CON. AND PROG.OFF. LECTURED IN GYMNASIUMS ON "PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION" AND "US BICENTENNIAL". BOTH LECTURES WERE WELL RECEIVED BY STUDENTS. CAO SPOKE TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ON "STUDY OPPORTUNITIES IN US" AND AMBASSADOR SPOKE TO THEM ON "BRIDGE OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND FINLAND" EMPHASIZING SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

ON THE LIGHT SIDE, AMBASSADOR AND ESCORT OFFICERS VISITED HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CENTER FAVORED BY PRESIDENT KEKKONEN. TESTS WERE TAKEN AND WE FOUND THAT FINLAND'S 75 YEAR OLD PRESIDENT IS IN BETTER CONDITION THAN ALL OF US.

HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT WAS BICENTENNIAL CEREMONY HELD IN JYVASKYLA UNIVERSITY'S OLD FESTIVAL HALL. THE FULL HOUSE AUDIENCE HEARD PIECES BY THE CITY ORCHESTRA'S STRING SECTION, CELLO SOLO BY MEMBER OF FINLANDIA QUARTET, SONGS BY THE JYVASKYLA STUDIO CHOIR AND USIS UNCLASSIFIED

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SPONSORED SINGER BEN MARTIN. THE AMBASSADOR GAVE THE MAIN

ADDRESS. AT THE END OF CEREMONY A MAN STOOD UP AND
LED AUDIENCE IN A CHEER FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND US.
PRESS COVERAGE WAS OUTSTANDING. LOCAL NEWSPAPER, KESKI-
SUOMALAINEN (CETNER PARTY, CIRC. 63,000) CARRIED
GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AMBASSADOR'S PROGRAM INCLUDING
HIS REMARKS AT BICENTENNIAL CEREMONY AND PICTURE OF
HIM MEETING LABOR LEADERS. SHORTER ITEMS APPEARED IN
TWO HELSINKI NEWSPAPERS, HELSINGIN SANOMAT AND UUSI SUOMI.
SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS FEATURED AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS AT
PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO US
TO HELP PROMOTE PURCHASES OF FINNISH ICE-BREAKERS.
HOUSTON

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